



TO: Chairman Shirkey and Health Policy Committee Members
DATE: October 5, 2015
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 338

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on Senate Bill 338.

I am Mike McElroy, owner of Highland Alzheimers Care Residence, a home for the aged located in Jackson. I am also representing the Michigan Center for Assisted Living (MCAL), a statewide association of assisted living communities including homes for the aged, adult foster care homes and other senior living settings throughout Michigan. MCAL is a division of the Health Care Association of Michigan.

Senate Bill 338 would require that homes for the aged and nursing facilities have a private examination room to be used exclusively for medical or dental examinations and treatments. The following details many of our concerns:

- Space is at a premium in most existing homes. In homes for the aged, residents have private living space or apartments where they usually choose to see visiting medical professionals. This method affords them not only privacy but dignity.
- Very few existing homes have a dedicated space for exams and those that do find that they mostly go unused. Some of my colleagues, including Ingham Regional Assisted Living here in Lansing, included an exam room when it was built nine years ago. From then until now – it remains unused. Residents simply do not choose to use the space and visiting medical professionals are willing and able to provide the service in the resident's room, much like visiting medical professionals do in private homes.
- HFAs are private pay communities. Most residents pay privately for their room, board and services in these licensed communities. The cost of building, adding on or conversions for the purpose of this kind of room would be passed directly on to the residents. There is no other means for paying for this kind of requirement. Because HFAs are unsubsidized by government monies except for some services provided under Medicaid waiver contracts, the costs of such physical plant changes could be significant and cause hardship on providers and residents alike.
- Additionally, this may trigger updates that are currently not required in older properties.
- Occasionally, other facility spaces are used for medical professional visits with residents but these spaces are sanitary and private. Facilities are inspected annually for not only cleanliness but also to be sure that residents are being treated with dignity. A dedicated exam space is not required by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs administrative rules for HFA.
- Homes for the aged are licensed as a residential model, not medical and as such should not provide extensive medical or dental care at the facility.

In closing, MCAL is not in favor of this unfunded mandate. We feel that residents' needs and choices are being met, exceeded and respected effectively without a costly renovation that experience shows would be a wasteful with little to no use or quality of life improvement.

Thank you. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Health Care Association of Michigan / Michigan Center for Assisted Living
Promoting Excellence in Senior Care

7413 Westshire Drive • Lansing, MI 48917 • P: (517) 627-1561 • F: (517) 627-3016 • www.hcam.org • www.michcal.com